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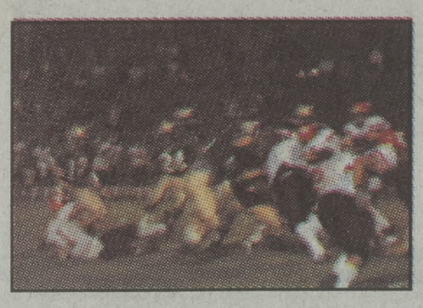


Monarchs on winning streak

see page 6

Observatory closing

see page 5

United Way quilt raises money for relief effort

see page 3

The Valley Star

VOLUME 56, ISSUE NO.4 | OCTOBER 5, 2001 | LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

Campus Students Silenced in Fear

BY LINDA TOPDJIAN
STAR REPORTER

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 had an impact on the world, the United States and the Los Angeles Valley College campus.

One impact from these attacks is still being felt. There are some students, and not just those with ties to the Middle East, who are afraid to share their opinions or feeling about what happened three weeks ago. Some students fear retaliation from Americans who take it upon themselves to decide what is right or wrong.

"Students should recognize that violence or threats of violence will not be tolerated at Los Angeles Valley College," said Dr. Carl King, director of student psychological services. If there is a threat of violence against them, they should contact the college police."

Randy Tunistra, a deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, said there have been no hate crimes reported on campus, but there have been five bomb threats Sept.11.

The bomb threat two days after the terrorist attacks was the first campus-wide evacuation in the school's history, according to campus officials.

There have been at least two possible hate crimes reported in the news. The FBI is currently looking into the murder of a storekeeping in the San Gabriel Valley as a possible hate crime. Adel Karas, a 48-year-old Egyptian storeowner was shot in the chest last Saturday. In addition, two white men who allegedly followed a Latino man to his Lancaster home and attacked him, mistakenly thinking he was from the Middle East, according to a newspaper report.

"It sucks that certain racial groups are preyed upon because of a certain Arabic look on their faces," said Jason Taylor, an economics student at LAVC. "People shouldn't have to live in fear in a country that's supposed to be free."

Dr. King is a clinical psychologist who has been practicing for 23 years. He is available,

See "SILENCED" on p. 4

STAR PHOTO/MARCY PETRIQUE

Cilo Hidalgo Jr. proudly displays his patriotism with a flag on his wheelchair and by wearing a shirt honoring America's heroes from the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Student Reserves Go on Alert

BY NJEHU GATABAKI
STAR REPORTER

As the U.S. military prepares to go to war against terrorism, reserves from all over the nation are being called and placed on high alert, including students at Los Angeles Valley College.

Raul Guerrero, 25, is a part-time student at Valley College and is among 140 reserves on this campus. He, like the others, is prepared to drop everything to fight for his country and against terrorism.

At approximately 6 a.m. on Sept. 12, a day after the terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, Sgt. Guerrero received the call from his platoon leader, advising him to be on high alert and prepare for war.

"I had to report to base the next Friday and call all the people in our platoon and hold inspections," Guerrero said. "As soon as the commander in chief gives the word, we'll be there."

Guerrero is a member of the 514 Artillery Battalion Combat unit, an arm of the Naval Weapons station based in Seal Beach.

"We're motivated and ready to go," he said. "The Marines have been ready for over 200 years and we're still ready."

Guerrero said he has been a proud member of the Marines since 1994 and has six years of active-duty experience. As a headquarters sergeant responsible for training 13 fellow Marines, Guerrero trains two weeks per month in the summer and once a month the rest of the year. He attends Valley twice a week and is a full-time security officer at Valley.

The War is nothing new to Guerrero who was stationed for eight months on active duty in Bahrain during the Gulf War.

"It was hot!" said Guerrero of the weather conditions. "The people there support U.S. troops and were really cool."

Aspiring to become a Sheriff's deputy, Guerrero has always wanted to be in the Marines. He said he has many relatives who are Marines.

"It's like a family tradition," he said.

The well built, clean-cut reserve, clad in a white and black security uniform, admitted that his family is worried about him going to war.

"They're scared," he said. "But, they understand that I'm ready."

Guerrero, who is married, likes to spend time with his 16-month-old son, Sebastian Raul Guerrero. He also enjoys going out with his friends.

"He's just a good guy!" said David Rodriguez of his fellow security partner.

Bruce Thomas, a veteran who heads the counseling department at Valley, said there are 151 veterans and reserves at the college. He said 140 those are reserves. All are on alert.

"My views are no different than what the general public believes," said Thomas of the Sept. 11 attacks. "It was a horrific event, truly surreal and unbelievable. It's a concern for everyone in that it brought to everyone's realization that we are not as protected as we thought."

Guerrero said pilots should carry weapons or the cockpit should be made bulletproof.

Guerrero said after the war he will return to his family, his job and to Valley College.

STAR PHOTO/JORGE GALLEGOS

Sgt. Raul Guerrero is ready to fight for America.

The Indian Summer Has Arrived

BY NIDIA IVETTE GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

What have you been doing to stay cool in this unexpected heat? Have you been wondering where it's coming from and when it's going to be over? If you check the barometer today you might be surprised to discover that even though we have entered the autumnal equinox, we are still experiencing temperatures in the 90s that keep our fall sweaters still in storage.

According to Geography professor, Richard Raskoff, this weather pattern is not as strange as we might think. He explained that this is in accordance with this time of year and very common in this area. Something called an Indian summer.

What is an Indian summer?

This is how a few students defined Indian summer:

Eric Grindler, a liberal arts student said," Isn't that a very hot summer?"

Student Susanna Hogtanyan said, "An Indian Summer is when its really really hot and humid."

They were pretty close.

You're correct if you are saying that it is hot. It is usually caused by a large persistent or slow moving high-pressure system according to Newton BBS.com, a website dedicated to answering math and science questions.

"Whenever it's warm there is a huge mountain of air over this area, and as the air sinks, it pushes on the air below it, compressing it, which moves the air molecules around. Raskoff added that the more these molecules collide, the warmer the temperatures remain.

These conditions are ingredients of an Indian Summer.

Why do we call it an Indian summer?

The term Indian summer dates back to the early 19th century. The website quinion.com says that the term is associated with Native Americans and their many festivals that are held during this time of year.

You can usually tell in the evening after the sun has gone down when the sea

Ways to Help the Victims in New York:

The American Red Cross is accepting donations of blood and money in various forms:
Call 1-800 HELP-NOW or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) Visit the web and make a secure credit card donation at www.redcross.com
Send a donation to the American Red Cross, PO Box 37243, Washington DC 20013
To donate blood in the San Fernando Valley, the nearest donor location is located in Van Nuys at:
14717 Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA. Hours of business are from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
There is a four to five hour wait to donate blood due to the lack of supplies and manpower.

The New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund is collecting check or money order donations via mail at The New York Firefighters 9-11 Disaster Relief Fund
C/O Firehouse.com
9658 Baltimore Ave- Suite 350
College Park, MD 20740

Officers of the Associated Student Union

President

Luis Trujillo
Chairman of the executive council and liaison between the administration and the students.

Vice President

Francesca "Frankie" Pagnotta
Chair of the inter-club Council liaison between the executive and inter-club Councils.

Treasurer

Angel Melgar
Maintains a record of the budget and provides a summary of budget expenses.

Public Relations

Jennifer Brogin
Responsible for publicizing ASU campus activities.

Commissioners can be found on p. 4

editorial

Tagging Stalls Bathroom Clean up

BY GEPPETTO LAUNER
STAR REPORTER

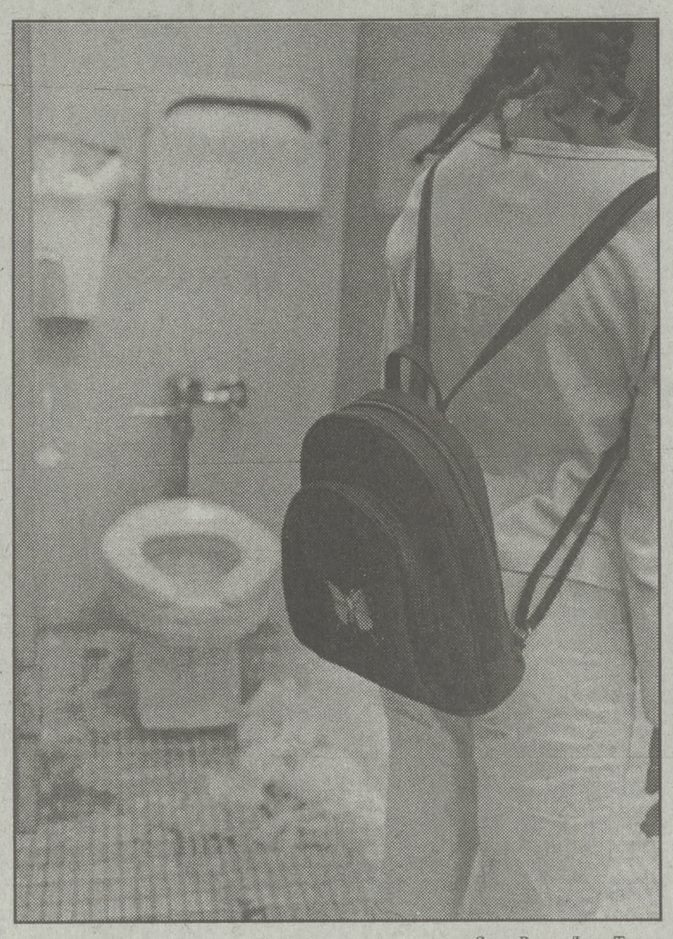
Here we are raising the issue of tagging and bathroom cleanliness. It's not only a problem on the streets, it's a problem on the walls of our campus bathrooms. Some people feel that "taggers" would stop their unwanted "art" from appearing on private property if there was an outlet for these taggers to express themselves.

Some say if chalkboards and chalk were made available in the bathrooms on campus, tagging would be eliminated. Colleges that have installed chalkboards in their bathrooms have seen a decrease in graffiti. Maybe Valley College should implement this same program.

One local graffiti artist explained how she stayed out of gangs, because she was able to express her artistic abilities, through graffiti art. In the past, graffiti art has been legal in some designated places.

A police representative from the Van Nuys Police Department said there is zero tolerance for graffiti in Los Angeles County and called taggers and graffiti artists "monsters" who destroy property and need to go to jail.

A suggestion to the Art Department of Valley College is to sponsor an art "war" to get graffiti artists interested in exploring their talents further. Perhaps it would increase enrollment in classes, raising funds to help pay for refurbishing.



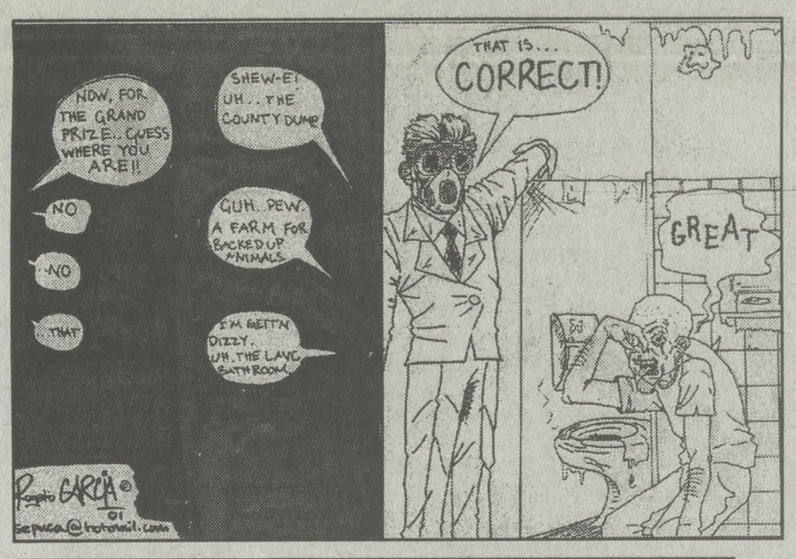
STAR PHOTO/LISA TOBIN

Dirty bathrooms are scattered throughout the Valley College campus. This paritucular one is located in the Business Journalism building.

Keep in mind, when you tag on campus property, the school has to pay for supplies to clean up the mess left behind.

Almost every restroom on campus at LAVC is an atrocious mess, created by immature men and women, who would never leave restrooms at home in such conditions. Often times the graffiti is accompanied by toilet paper strewn on the floor and sinks. There are garbage cans in each and every restroom on campus. Trash is what they've been designed for. This is college, people! You're no longer in kindergarten, and shouldn't need adult supervision to treat other people's property with the respect it deserves. If you think that the maintenance personnel are responsible for cleaning up after you, think again.

According to LAVC's operations manager, Charles Long, the campus restrooms are cleaned TWICE daily, and graffiti is cleaned up as rapidly as maintenance personnel can scrape it off. When graffiti is removed from the restroom stalls, it leaves a scar on the painted surfaces. The campus maintenance staff is fighting an unnecessary battle to ensure the restrooms are decent, clean and sanitary for all of us. The policy, according to Long, is clear that there is a zero tolerance on campus restroom graffiti, and is removed in an expedient manner. Sadly enough, campus vandals replace more obnoxious graffiti in place of recently removed scribbling.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Within the last few weeks a terrifying global concern for war has increased, thus encouraging Americans to support their newly acquired patriotism. As I pass by corners on practically every intersection and I seem to notice the evil intentions of the American market. The Jones like epidemic has spread through the eyes of almost every person in this country. Some see it as an opportunity to market patriotic inventory through nationalistic advertising as means of raising profit. At first there were horns honking and candle light vigils that had submerged into cities and into our streets coast to coast. Over exaggeration of implanted thoughts, and no reconciliation of past historical and non-historical wars. The president implicates this phony ruckus, and is encouraging the angry mind state of millions. There are so many consequential attributions to war, and the waving of flags or suddenly attending church will really not contribute to the depletion of this process. The normal, everyday American culture of baseball games and hot dogs have turned more or less into an ignorant, hooting, hooray for uncle Sam episodes. Men, and sometimes-shadowed women, that might not even know what they are fighting for, have stated to feel a necessity for being a part of the current international "Hollywood".

I heard some opinions take complete one hundred and eighty-degree turns from weeks previous. One week "George Bush is an idiot," the next he is doing a "marvelous job of protecting our country." I have witnessed potential deportees waving and vending flags along with their roses, which has now assumingly opened up their "patriotic eyes," along with the profiting off of other citizens.

Now, I'm not saying this is not a tragedy, or that I don't show compassion for all of the lost lives and loved ones. But to market this horrific event and profit, not even for the fundraising of the cause, but for their pocket is just nauseating. The only thing we should be supporting is the peace of this world and trying our hardest to try to keep it in unity and not hate. Sorry to say, but the utter enthusiasm of waving flags or honking horns is not going to save any of our fathers or brothers enrolled in the military, not to mention all of the thousands of innocent people the President is planning on killing if he bombs these countries. Drafts have been taken, and chemical, nuclear and even global warming are all potential occurrences of this so to speak "world war". America should be forewarned, your enthusiasm would not even come close to saving lives, if anything it will end up killing them.

Cynthia Be
Valley College Student

The ValleyStar

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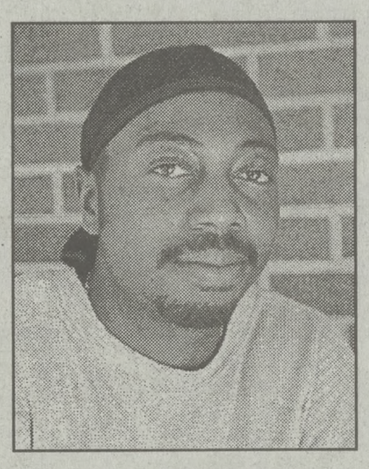
CampusView

If you walked into a LAVC bathroom blindfolded where would you think you were?

STAR PHOTOS/MARCY PETRIQUE

"At a dumpster. They're that bad."

Jessica Levy
Criminal Law

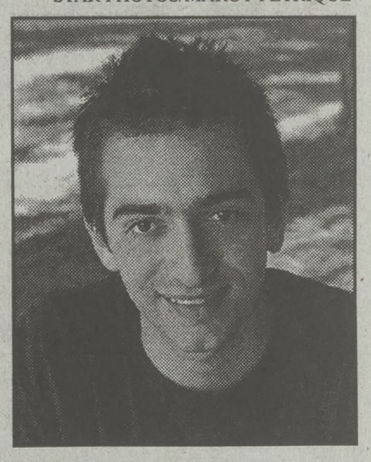


"I'd probably think I was in the gym or something."

Fernando Glaze
Bookstore Worker

"I have no idea. Maybe in a garage or something."

Ana Ramirez
Veterinary Science



"Probably a bathroom, maybe a dump or close to a sewer."

Sean Starros
Computer Science

Write a letter to the editor
StareditorsLAVC@hotmail.com
Please include your name and telephone number
Letter may be edited. Deadline: Friday 4:30 p.m.

You have a voice!!!

Valley Life

Campus Scene

■ **Student Donations**
Bring monetary donations to help the American Red Cross raise money for the Sept. 11 Fund to the VP of Student Services Center. Make checks payable to LAVC.

■ **Theater**
"44U2" Thursday – Sat. Oct. 4, 5, 6 and 11, 12, 13

■ **Sukkot Celebration**
Hillel at Valley College invites the campus community to our annual Sukkot (Harvest Holiday) Celebration in the Sukkah, located in Monarch Square Monday, Oct. 8th, 10am to 1pm. The festivities will include music and refreshments. Fulfill the Mitzvah (commandment) of shaking the Lulav and Etrog! For more information please call Hillel at (818) 887-5901.

■ **Blood Drive**
LAVC/ Student Health Clinic/ ASU will be hosting the annual Blood Drive with the American Red Cros. The drive will take place in Monarch Hall on Thursday, Oct. 18th 9:00am to 3:00pm. Even though the blood banks have more blood than ever it's still important that you do your share in helping the community by giving a little time and a little blood.

■ **Solar Yes! Campaign**
A campaign kick off meeting will be held in Math Science Room 113 on Oct. 10, at 2 p.m.. Urging LACCD Board of Trustees to use allocated money to use solar power and green materials, to help reduce global warmin

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Created With Love

BY RICHARD ADES
STAR REPORTER

STAR PHOTO/SALVADOR AGUILAR

A giant quilt made up of little squares decorated and sewn together with ribbons is being donated to the fire-fighting heroes who helped rescue the victims, and helped disassemble the world trade center in New York since the September 11 bombing by terrorists.

At The Fashion Square Mall in Sherman Oaks people of all ages were asked to express their patriotism in their designs of colorful glitter glued onto felt fabric, answering, what it means to be an American.

A five-dollar suggestive donation was asked from participants. This is to be sent to the September 11th Fund sponsored by United Way, which is going to the victims and their families.

Carrying out the operation was Shana Yao, marketing director of the mall. Her two helpers were Kirsten and Vera Shorud. "We're hoping to have 500 of those little nine by nine squares by the end." Said Vera. The last day of the drive was the weekend of September 29th and 30th.

When it was all said and done, the quilt raised more than $ 2000 for the United Way Fund and in it's entirety had 430 squares.

A small child sitting down decorated her part with zigzagging lines intersecting, calling her creation "a cross." She said she was doing this for "peace." Her mother said, "We were not there, but we're giving back what we lost."

Michell Davis from North Hills was here decorating her piece with a flag and 'God Bless America' written on it. Davis said, "this happened to New York but we share the pain too. It happened to all of us."

Tracy Parsons and her son Jack, from Studio City, were walking by and her son Jack noticed the drawings on the tables. He asked his mother if they could make one. They decorated their square with the words he told her, "America is the best."

The quilt is on display at the mall from now until Oct. 14 on the ground level of the mall.

A Piece of Art in Our Own Backyard

BY NIDIA IVETTE GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

STAR PHOTO/LAUREN RUDSER

While driving down by the east side of campus on Coldwater Boulevard you see what resembles a commemorative painting. It is actually a spectacular depiction of scenes in American history illustrated through a timeline. The timeline was painted in a 10-year span, from 1974 to 1983. Professor Richard Raskoff and the Los Angeles Valley College Museum Association took a

See "Mural" p.4

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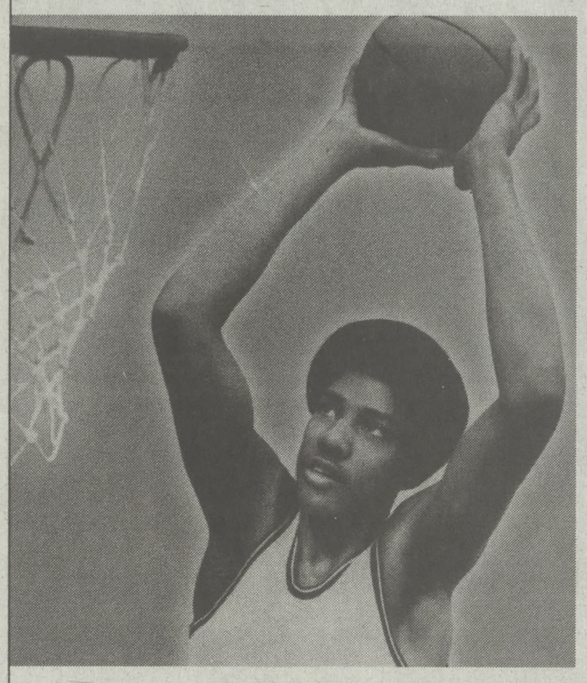

Julius Erving, University of Massachusetts, 1971

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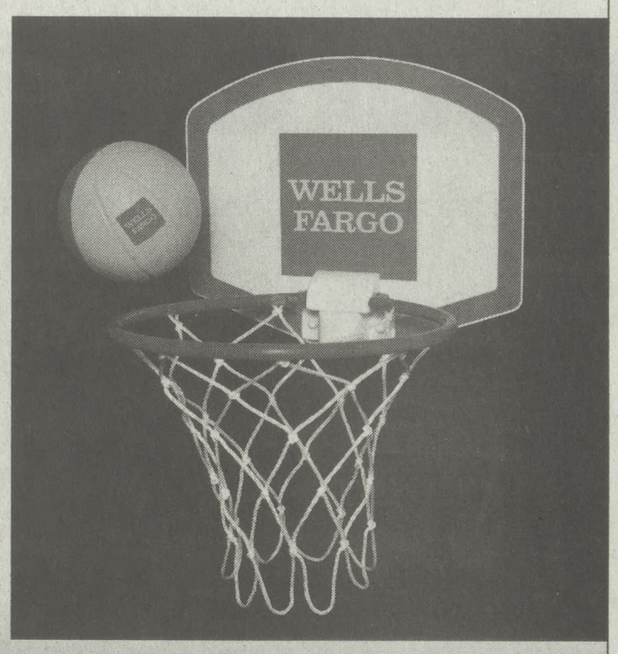

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Mural

continued from page 3

few students to see the mural and describe it.

Each panel is 350 feet in length and more than 13-feet high. The timeline includes depictions of the ice age to the 1950 Olympics. The mural is more a pictorial timeline of the people of color who helped build America and the sufferings that they have endured during that time.

The images that were most captivating were the panels depicting the American Indian assimilation. One drawing shows an officer cutting the braded hair of an American Indian. Other images displayed the racism of Americans through the encampment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Some of these stories that are not accounted for in all the history books.

> *"Maybe if we accepted everyone as equals, everything would be all right. We have to give credence to those people who that look at life a little differently."*
>
> - Professor Richard Raskoff

Judith Baca, a Chicana artist, drew parallels between groups of people in her murals. Many of the immigrants in this country broke racial, economic and social barriers to prevail. There are drawings of Olympic champions Billy Mills (an American Indian runner), and Wilma Rudolph (an African American).

This was, thanks to Raskoff, not just a lesson about a historical monument. This was a sociology lesson.

"Maybe if we accepted everyone as equals, everything would be all right, he said "We have to give credence to those people that look at life a little differently."

The project, sponsored by The Social and Public Arts Resource Center, took 250 students from junior high and high school to help create a 2,500-foot mural known as the "Great Wall of Los Angeles," the longest mural in the world.

In the 1970s, the organization found an ally in Mayor Tom Bradley who has been the only mayor aimed at funding unity through culturally diverse projects. Restoring the mural would be more than just saving a historic piece of artwork. If given the opportunity, Sheriff Lee Baca plans to create a similar project using only teen-agers to paint, giving them an outlet to express their sense of this current decade as the teens in the 1970s did.

"If Los Angeles can't recognize this important monument, then maybe we should take it down instead of letting it decay," said world-renowned artist Judith Baca, the brains behind the half-mile-long mural that depicts Los Angeles history.

Baca estimated that it would cost $500,000 to restore and enhance the mural, including the installation of kiosks and restrooms in the park that runs alongside the mural, and bringing it to date with current events according to sparc.com.

Silenced

continued from p.1

free of charge, to Valley College students.

He has extensive experience in assisting individuals and groups who have experienced traumatic stress in corporations and in public sector. He has been a member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team of the Los Angeles County Fire Department for the last eight years.

Prior to providing psychological services to students at Valley College, he spent 14 yeas as the Director of the Los Angeles Community College Employee Assistance Program, which served faculty and staff who experienced personal or job related problems.

> *"It sucks that certain racial groups are preyed upon because of a certain Arabic look on their faces."*
>
> -Jason Taylor an Economics Student

King provides confidential psychological counseling for Valley College students (12 visits are available through Valley College, at no charge). If students need long-term help, referrals can be made.

King provides students with six stress steps that include talking to a family member about any frustrations and to avoid acting impulsively. Tunistra had his own message for those considering any action against another student.

"Arrest, criminal court, jail time, and expulsion from the entire college district will be enforced if a hate crime is committed," Tunistra said. The student psychological services office is at the Student Health Center, located in the North Gym. For an appointment, call (818) 501-5375.

INFORMATIVE STRESS STEPS

1. Don't act impulsively.
2. Consider the consequences of your actions.
3. Talk to a trusted family member or friend to help relieve your frustration.
4. Avoid alcohol or drugs, which may impair your judgment.
5. Get regular physical exercise to relieve tension.
6. Talk to a mental health professional that can help you deal with your feelings of anger and provide coping skills.

Commissioners of the Associated Student Union

Athletics

Jessica Salazar

Deals with such items such as planning Homecoming activities and other inter-campus events.

Ethnic and Cultural Affairs

Susana Martinez

Conducts meetings between students and administration and works closely with ASU. Public relations officer to pro mote special events.

Fine Arts

Sandy Bowles

Review budget considerations for campus concerts and other musical events.

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Lisa Negrete

Helps plan the college health Fair and assists with on campus health events.

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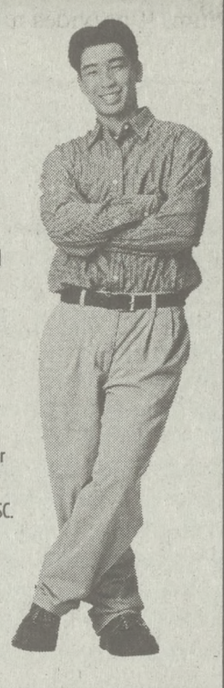

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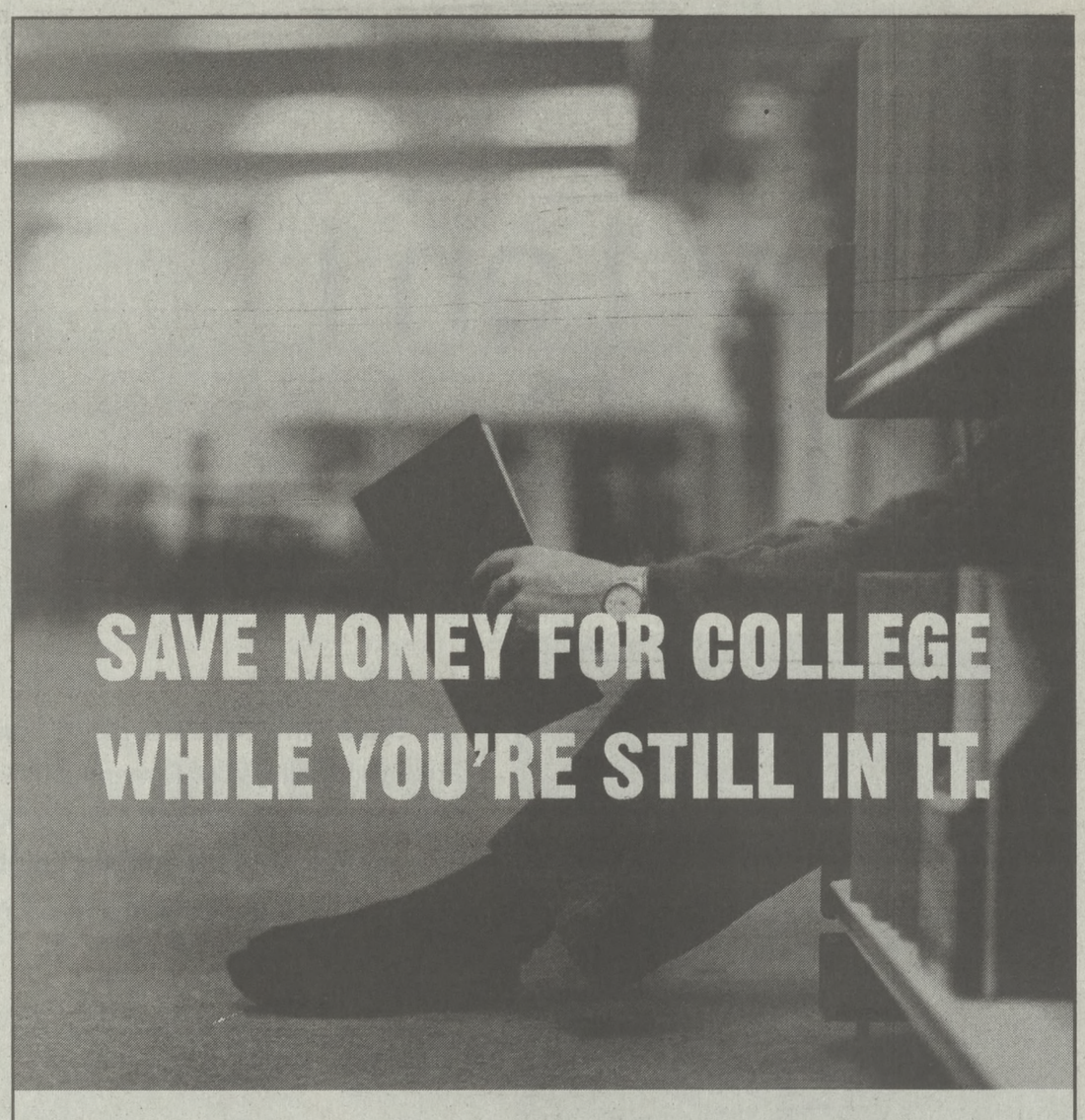

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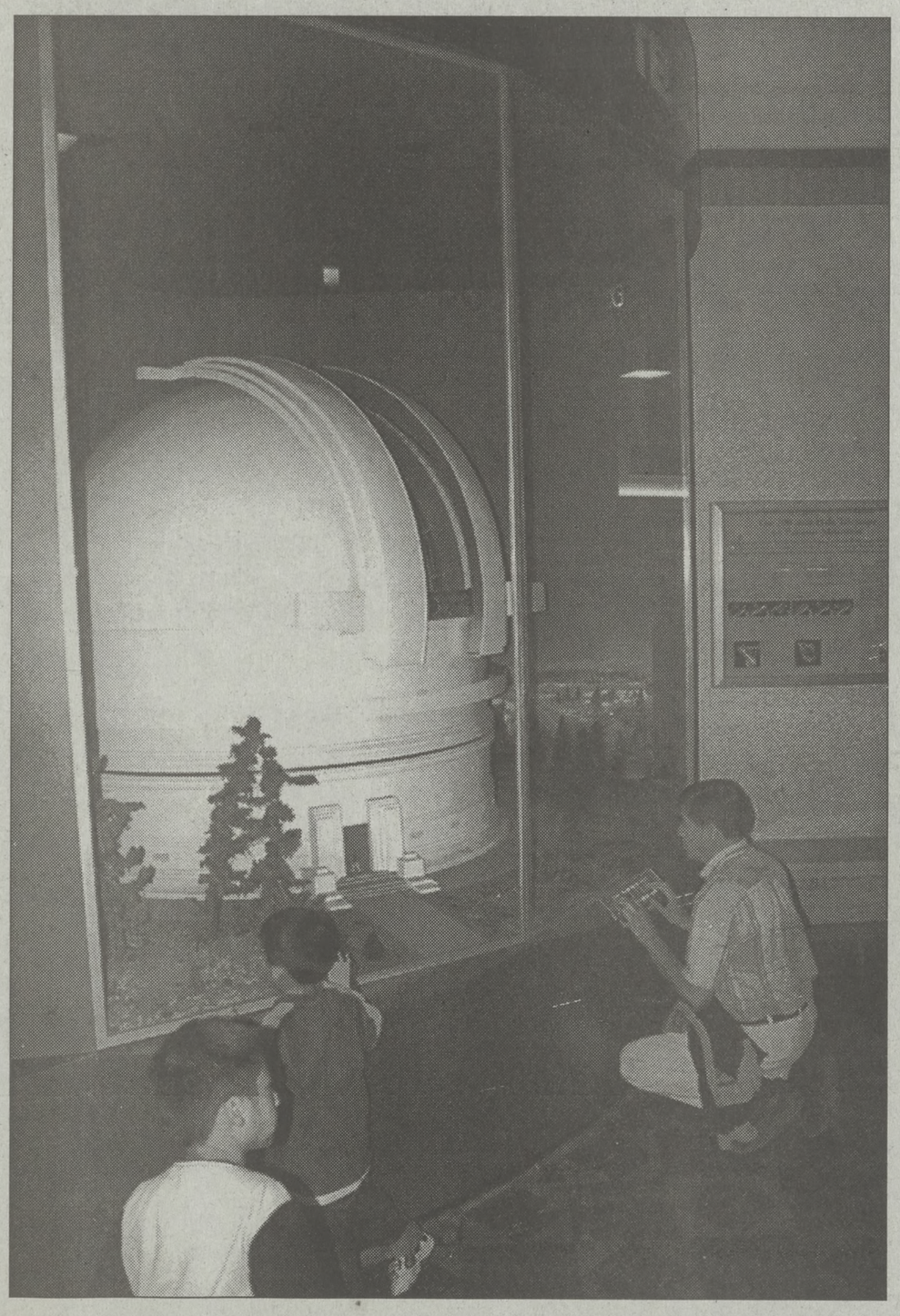
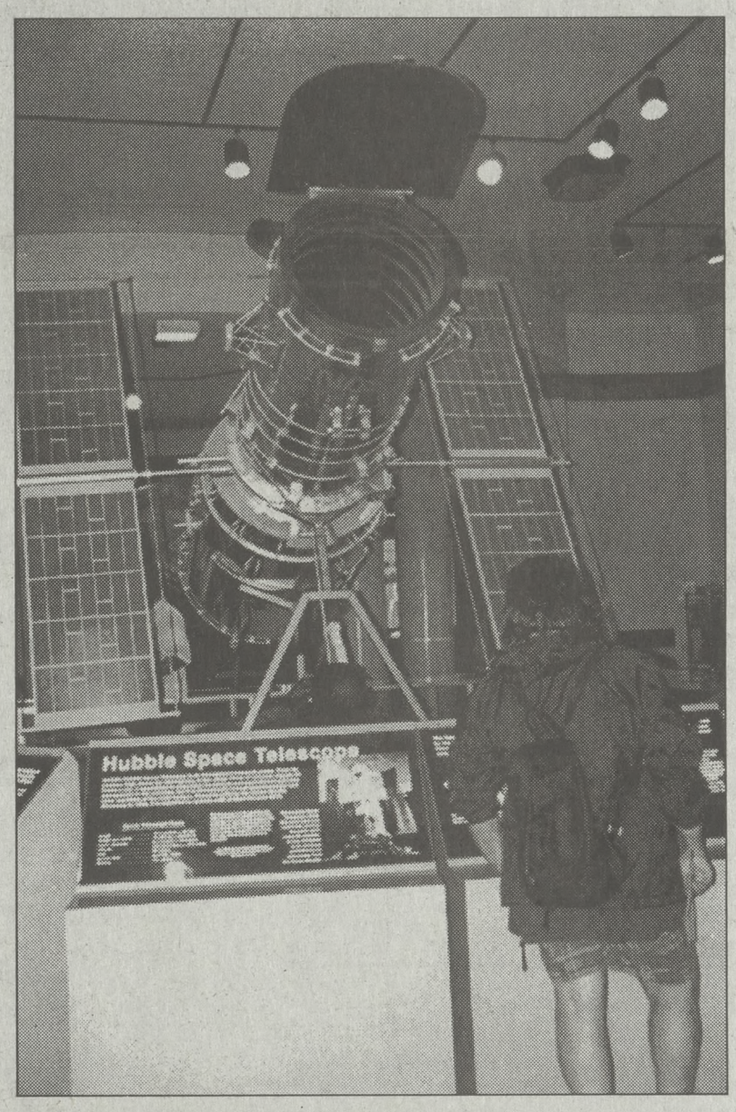
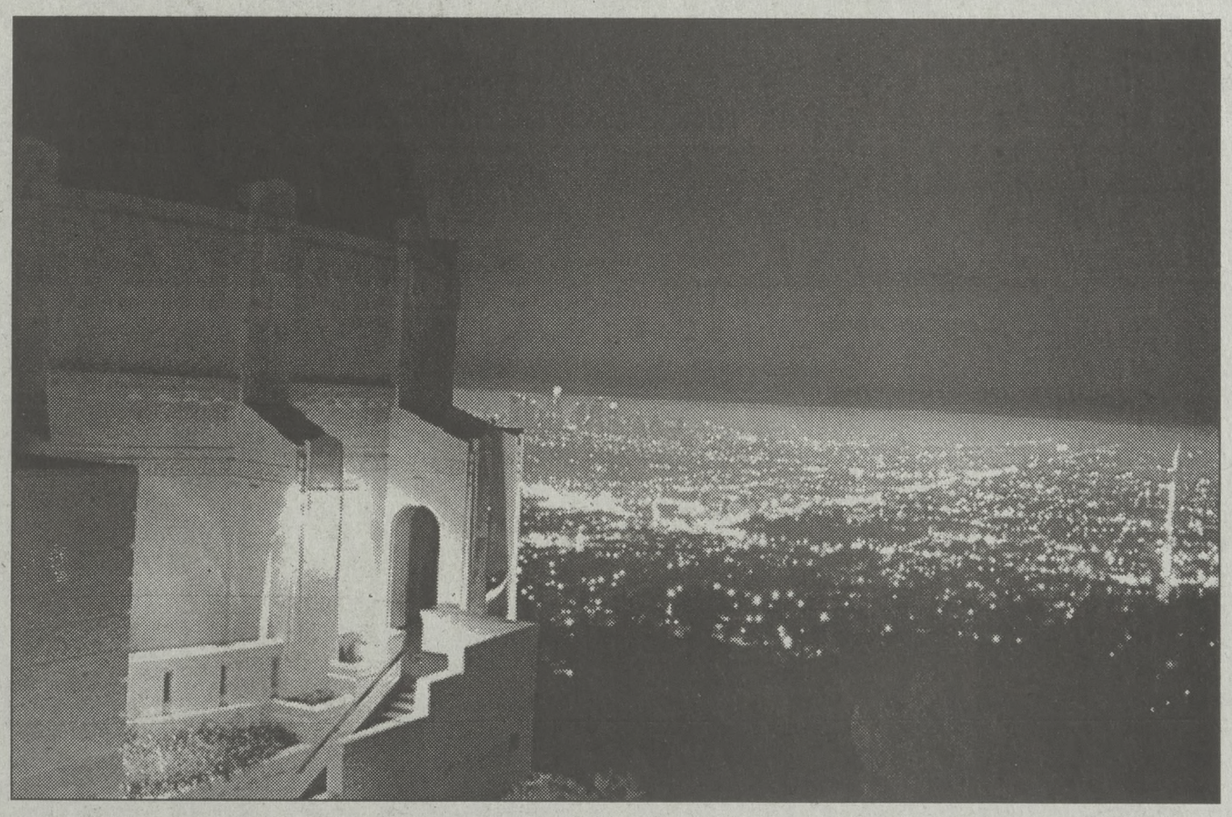


The Griffith Observatory overlooking beautiful Los Angeles will soon be closing its doors for at least two years. This fun and educational place has many interesting things to do, such as Lasarium. It provides a meeting place for the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, the longest amateur astronomy organization in Southern California.

For more than 66 years the observatory has sparked the imaginations of more than 50 million children and adults alike. This is the first major renovation since May 14, 1935, when it opened its doors to the public.

Even though Lasarium has put the observatory on the map, don't overlook the 12-inch telescope. The telescope is the largest "public friendly" telescope in California. While you are there, check out the Hall of Science, which holds loads of things to do. Go see it before it closes in early 2002. For more information, call (323) 664-1191.





Star Photos by Marcy Petrique

Text by Skylar Lenox

Layout by Samantha Kuppig

Sports

Mens Water Polo

Team Standings

Western State Conference

Cuesta-	24-5-2, 8-0
Citrus-	21-8-1, 7-1
Rio Hondo	19-10-1, 5-3
Ventura	11-10-1, 4-4
Santa Monica	11-13-2, 2-5
L.A. Valley	4-16-0, 0-7
Chaffey	1-19-0, 0-7
L.A. Pierce	dropped

The Monarchs water polo team scores another goal to bring them towards another victory. STAR PHOTO/ LAUREN RUDSER

Approaching the Throne

BY PEDRO OLIVER
STAR REPORTER

When the Valley College football team takes the field Saturday night against Glendale, it will be a battle to determine which of these teams will remain in first place in the Mountain Division of the Western State Conference.

First Place? It seems hard to believe that the Monarchs would be fighting for the top spot in the division after getting off to such a rough start. The Monarchs lost their first two games by a combined score of 54-18. But thanks to what is now a stingy defense, the Monarchs have won their last two games and pushed their record to 2-2. More importantly, the last two victories have been against teams in the Mountain Division.

The victories have not been pretty. The offense has not come together, so the team is relying on the defense. The defense has been up to the challenge.

In their game on Sept. 22, against East Los Angeles College, the defense only gave up 19 yards in the second half. The defense held of East Los Angeles long enough for the offense to put up enough points to pull out a victory.

Valley has always been a team that hung their hat on its offense. They were known for having a high-powered offensive attack that needed the ball in the final seconds of a game in order to pull out a victory.

This year's team seems more intent on blowing teams away with their defense. Currently, the Monarchs are second in the division in points allowed with 76. They are also second in defending against the pass, giving up only two more yards than Bakersfield. The Monarchs are playing a more ball-control offense and allowing the defense to wear down the opposition.

Last Saturday's game was a perfect example of the Monarch defense dominating the game. The Monarchs were back home after a two game road trip and hosting Santa Barbara, a team that had scored only six points in their previous three games and given up 98. One would assume that this would be a perfect match up for the Monarchs to get their offense in gear and blow Santa Barbara out. Instead the, Monarchs waited until the fourth quarter to score 15 unanswered points and secure their second straight come-from-behind win. 15-7.

Santa Barbara lit up the scoreboard in the second quarter with an impressive 99-yard scoring drive that ended with their quarterback, Bryan Peterson, scampering 30 yards for the score. Of course this would be their only score of the game, thanks to another outstanding effort by the Monarch defense. The defense only gave up 18 yards passing the entire game and Willie Green intercepted his second pass of the season.

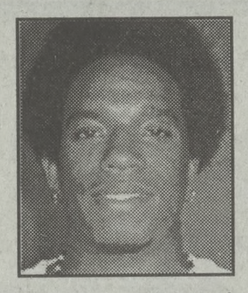
The Monarchs finally got on the scoreboard in the opening moments of the fourth quarter. Quarterback Ruben Zaragoza hit Sanders Trent with a 14-yard touchdown pass, ending an eight play 53-yard drive. The extra point attempt was blocked and the Monarchs 7-6. Daman Richards ran into the end zone from two yards out with 5:39 left to play in the fourth quarter to give the Monarchs a 12-7 lead.

Kicker Geoff Marcus added a 22-yard field goal with 1:07 remaining in the game to increase Valley's lead to 15-7. Just like the previous game, Valley needed a last second quarterback sack to preserve the victory. This time it was Travis Bass who got to the quarterback.

Although the Monarchs defense once again came to the rescue, they can't lean on them too much. How many times can the defense hold their opponent to single figures in scoring?

Eventually the offense is going to have to put some points on the board. Especially against a team as experienced as Glendale. Glendale is returning 28 lettermen and like Valley, is 2-0 in division play.

JNBA?



BY Le'Von Davis
Sports Editor

The other day I was watching a television special, "The War on Terrorism," and right in the middle of it, I see "this program has been interupted for a special news coverage." I was hoping it wasn't another American tragedy. It was another tragedy, Michael Jordan's news conferance. He was announcing his return to the NBA. First thing to come to my mind was that things are almost back to normal.

Even though that is not a true story, it could be. Michael Jordan is the only person I know that has the power to interupt the aftermath of major tragedies. A man in his own world with his own agenda, but still having the awareness enough to affect others in a positive light.

On Tuesday, Sept. 25, Michael "Air" Jordan told the world that he will return to the NBA. What does this mean? Does it mean anything? I do know that it means the Washington Wizards will now sell over 100 tickets a game, and if things go as planned, they will sell out the areana. The Wizards might actually make it to the playoffs, well, maybe not. This also means that there will be one more Jordan collector items.

I tried really hard to believe that this is good for the NBA, but its not. Jordan is bigger than the NBA, and if he actually perfoms well than that's even worse. Each week, all eyes on Jordan. Kobe scores 65 points against the Blazers, but the highlight ot the night will be the one fade-away jumper Jordan hit to win the game against the Memphis Grizzles. What good can come of Jordan's return?

This will not be good young players. Allen Iverson has spent years trying to be a NBA role model, and he finally got his chance. But Jordan's return spoils that fun. What good does Kobe, Vince Carter, or anyone have palying against Jordan, it won't help at all. They win the match-up againt Jordan and critics say that's expected, but if they lose, then Jordan is a hero. Its a win-win situation for Jordan.

This will be good for Jordan and Jordan only. If Jordan comes out and scores 45 points a night, and takes the Wizards to the playoffs, who is that good for? Jordan, Jordan, Jordan. Where is Jordan going after he retires again? He will be right back into the owner's box, with big crowds because he helped the team succeed. This move is not about the love of the game, this is a business move. Think of Jordan as another Bill Gates. No matter how many times Iverson crosses him over, Jordan will always end up on top.

I wish Jordan would stay home, play with his kids, spend some time with his wife, or just get a life. Do something besides basketball! I guess the basketball gods won't help me ot on this one.

Welcome back, to the JNBA (Jordan's National Basketball Association). Go Wizards.

Monarchs Athlete of the Week

BY: LE'VON DAVIS
STAR REPORTER

Jessica Salazar is a 18-year-old sophomore who is making a change in and out of the athletic world. She is trying to make it to state this year, while juggling schoolwork, and holds the title of the ASU Commissioner of Athletics for Los Angeles Valley College. She also wants everyone to know her birthday is Oct. 26, and she is now accepting presents.

LeVon Davis: What are your aspirations for this cross country season?
Jessica Salazar: For cross country right now I am just concentrating on going to state, so I am trying to train really hard to keep that meet in mind.

L.D. : When did you start running cross country
J.S. : I started running cross country on a team since ninth grade but I have been running long distance since seventh grade

L.D. : What got you started running?
J.S. : A physical education teacher would just have us run and I discovered I had a knack for it, so I just stuck with.

L.D. : Did you run high school? What school did you run for?
J.S. : I ran in the 9th, 10th, and 12th grade on teams. I ran at Sylmar High

L.D. : Do you enjoy running in college?
J.S. : Its so different, but unlike high school you get a lot of attention, your coaches and team take care of you.

L.D.: What do you like to do besides cross country?
J.S. : I play the guitar , I started playing my senior year of high school.

L.D.: Do you have much time between cross country and ASU and school?
J.S.: I schedule fun time, I go to the gym and take dancing, that's another hobby of mine, I love to dance.

L.D.: What do you usually do on the weekends?
J.S.: I race on Saturdays and Sundays I go to church and hand out with my family.

L.D.: Do you get a lot of support from your family with ASU and track?
J.S.: My parents leave it up to me. They know I do well but they never feel the need to keep on me about how I'm doing, if I'm doing my job.

L.D.: Do you have any brothers or sisters?
J.S.: I have one younger sister and two younger brothers. They're all teen-agers. They are 13, 15, and 16. My little brother runs too. He runs for Sylmar High school and, he's good.

L.D.: So, this is a family thing?
J.S. My parents used to run too. My parents were pretty good. They didn't have much time considering the polititcal situation in El Salvador. Maybe I inherited it from them, you never know.

L.D.: How well is your academics situation?
J.S.: I've kind of figured out how to manage the time, my GPA is up to 3.8 right now so I'm all right.

L.D: What school are you planning to transfer to?
J.S.: Berkeley, or UCLA.

L.D.: Why Berkeley or UCLA?
J.S.: Berkeley first of all because of academics and secondly because of sports, they will take care of me if I want to do sports.

L.D.: What are you majoring in?
J.S.: Business, and I probably will get something in Economics.

L.D.: What do you want to do after you graduate College?
J.S.: That's a tough question, with everything I do here at school, clubs, ASU and everything, I will probably get in to politics or some kind of event planning. I don't want to sit at a desk all day.

L.D.: What is the one thing that would describe Jessica Salazar.
J.D.: I would tell people I am a out-going person who wants to understand and to learn everything she can about the world she is in.

STAR PHOTO/SKYLER LENOX

W'sup?

How do you feel about Michael Jordan's return to the NBA?

"Jordan is going to have to work really hard to keep up with the youngsters, and put together an all-star team or something."
John Vlasco

"At the beginning of the season he will be a little out of shape, but towards the end of the season he should pick up again."
Bruce West

"With Michael coming back, he is going to be on top of the game again, he wouldn't come back unless he had some talent."
Printess Mcqueen

"It's lame that Jordan is coming back because he is already a legend and he has nothing to prove."
Andrew Cook